

# THE HISTORY of SPANISH FORK

By ELISHA WARNER



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they found the citizens camped in the school house. On the night of July 23, W. S. Berry and Charles Price were on guard. The Indians made a raid on the cattle at the Palmyra settlement and succeeded in getting them all out of the corral, but the guard went after the cattle and soon got them started back. The Indians, seeing their attempt to steal the herd ending unsuccessfully, commenced firing upon the guard. Charles Price was hit in the right thigh by a bullet, making a severe flesh wound.

On account of the Indian depredations, all the settlers on the river in what was then known as the "upper settlement" moved to Palmyra for the winter. The people stood guard all fall and winter, not knowing when the Indians might attack them.

During a heavy snow storm in November, 1853, the Indians stole about fifty head of stock, among which were a number of oxen. They drove them up Spanish Fork canyon to the Warm Springs, now Castilla, where they camped all winter and fed upon the beef.

The war continued through the summer and fall and in the spring of 1854, following his well known policy that "it is cheaper to feed the

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Indians than to fight them," Brigham Young, with General Daniel H. Wells and other officials, made a trip through central and southern Utah, distributing food and presents among the Indians as they went. This move was successful in placating the savages and led to a big peace council which was held at Provo on August 12, 1854, and which brought to a close the Walker War of 1853.

The Tintic War—The settlers had no more trouble with the Indians until late in the fall of 1855, when what is known as the Tintic War broke out in Cedar Valley. The Indians killed two men named Carson, who were herding sheep, and a boy thirteen years old named Hunsaker. After killing the herders, the Indians stole and drove off all the stock they could secure, and took them to the lower end of Tintic Valley. Col. P. W. Conover called upon John W. Berry for twenty men to secure the stolen property. The pursuing party came so close upon the Indians in the lower end of Tintic Valley, that the redskins took fright and fled, leaving the stock behind, with the exception of a few saddle horses, which they took with them. The stock left behind by the Indians was col-

1856  
Tintic War  
Late Fall 1855-6



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lected without much difficulty and driven back home. Thus ended the Tintic War, and the Indians remained friendly for a number of years.

**Bowlegs and Peteetneet** — The affair in Tintic valley could not properly be called a war. It was more a matter of a posse after a number of criminals. Before this happening, the Indians had made a move for peace with the whites by returning fourteen head of stolen cattle by an Indian named Bowlegs. Soon afterward, Peteetneet, chief of the Spanish Fork band, came down with four lodges and camped in the fort at Palmyra, and soon afterward the whole of his band returned to their former camping ground on the creek. Spanish Fork was the permanent home of Peteetneet and his band when the whites came to the country. It was their hunting ground. By the conciliatory advice of Governor Young, the people of Spanish Fork built him a house, and it was his band that was afterward settled by the Federal government on the Spanish Fork Indian Farm Reservation.

**The Grasshopper Plague** — The Indians were not the only, nor for that matter the most sinister foe the pioneer inhabitants of Palmyra had

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to fight. The summer of 1855 brought one which in many respects did more damage and was more feared than the red man. In the fall of 1854, according to the record of George A. Hicks, there came a great cloud of grasshoppers and settled upon the land along the river. The settlers thought nothing of their coming, for it was too late in the fall for them to do any great amount of damage to their crops, everything having been harvested except some late pieces of corn when the insects made their appearance.

In the spring of 1855, however, the young hoppers hatched out by the millions, and began to devour the sprouting crops, which were just beginning to cover the ground. Some of the farmers believed that the grain would grow up again after the grasshoppers had passed over it, but in this they were mistaken, for they not only ate the young grain, but they seemed to poison the roots so that it grew no more. Everything green was devoured by them, and the valley appeared as though scorched by fire. Not only at Palmyra, but throughout the entire territory, the grasshoppers destroyed the crops, and famine stared the settlers in the face. In